

**Governor's Press Conference  
N.A. Chaderjian Youth Correctional Facility**

**Statement  
By  
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Director, California Youth Authority  
November 16, 2004**

Today marks a new beginning for the California Youth Authority.... a turning point that will strengthen public safety in California, while providing adequate rehabilitative services to the youthful offenders charged our care.

I want to personally thank Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and Youth and Adult Correctional Agency Secretary Rod Hickman for their leadership and support in helping us get to this point today.

The Prison Law Office landmark lawsuit compelled our department to take a hard look at the delivery of its services and conclude that what was being done was not working. The resulting settlement

agreement between the Youth Authority and the Prison Law Office will help provide the resources needed to return the CYA to its former status as a national model in public safety and juvenile offender rehabilitative services.

With the settlement of this case, CYA now has an agreed upon process to correct the deficiencies and is back on the road to being a place where California juvenile offenders will get the treatment they need to return to society as productive citizens.

Since my appointment as Director last December, we have been moving toward a vision of a more therapeutic environment for the troubled juveniles who are placed under our care...one in which the needs and security of each juvenile offender committed to the Department is the top priority.

This vision includes reducing institution violence; looking at nationally recognized best practices for juvenile facilities; building an expanded activity and education component; providing enhanced casework staffing; increasing staff training; creating stronger linkages with offender families and community stakeholders; and making sure the people who have been hurt by crime have an equal voice in the justice system.

We must ensure victims their rights, while holding the offender accountable. This is the direction we are headed and this settlement agreement provides us one of the maps to get there.

Finally, I want to recognize our dedicated CYA staff, who have continued to work every day to provide treatment and rehabilitation services to these juvenile offenders. It is only with their continued

efforts that we will be able to make the necessary changes to build a better CYA.

Thank you.

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